THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) No such earmarked allocation has been made except under the ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme for introducing modern subjects in Madarsas volunteering to do so. An action plan to address issues of educational backwardness among the Muslim Community pointed out by the "Sachar" Committee is under consideration.

Students dropping out due to ragging

*552. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of students who drop out due to ragging every year from different institutions in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to bring ragging within the criminal law; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) No information is maintained by the Government regarding the percentage of students dropping out due to ragging every year from different institutions.

Offences, *inter alia* those, affecting public tranquillity, decency, morals, the human body and property, as well as those relating to criminal intimidation and insult, whether committed as a part of 'ragging' or otherwise, are already punishable under the Indian Penal Code (IPC).

Report of the committee of secretaries

*553. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the report of the Committee of Secretaries, which was appointed by her Ministry at the direction of Prime Minister;

(b) whether the Committee has suggested any increase in remuneration;

(c) whether the Committee has suggested any 'parting gift' to retired Anganwadi workers; and

(d) whether Government have decided on the retirement age of Anganwadi workers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: (a) to (c) While no Committee of Secretaries was appointed, a Review Committee was constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Women and Child Development, to examine the current levels of Honorarium of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers and other related issues. Other members on the Committee included Joint Secretaries of Some Union Ministries and Secretaries in-charge of ICDS of selected States.

The Review Committee has submitted its Report and the same is under consideration of the Government.

(d) The question of fixing and upper age limit for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers has been left to the State Governments/UT Administrations.

Cloud-seeding experiment in A.P.

*554. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether cloud-seeding experimented in Andhra Pradesh has proved successful;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked for financial aid for conducting similar experiments in a group of States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof, indicating the status of Orissa in cloud-seeding ?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) The results of the could-seeding experiment in Andhra Pradesh are yet to be shared with our Ministry. Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM) Pune had only provided consultancy in cloud-seeding experiments conducted by Andhra Pradesh in the year 2006. As and when the results of the experiment are shared, we will be able to assess and decide the course of action with respect to other States.